Equal Rights

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Mary Van Casteel

National Chairman of the Students' Council of the Woman's Party, who has been organizing the nation-wide Intercollegiate Equal Rights Essay Contest. In this contest the Students' Council is offering a prize of one hundred dollars for the best essay written by a college student on Equal Rights for men and women. Miss Van Casteel is a student in George Washington University.

Feminist Notes

Germany's Medical Women Organize

AS a result of a congress held in Berlin last October, the women physicians of Germany have formed an organization. This is an unprecedented accomplishment for Germany. About half of the medical women of the country have joined in spite of great drawbacks, of which the chief one is the severe industrial depression. This naturally affects professional classes most seriously.

Ancient Feminism

THAT in modern France women take less part in political life than in ancient Rome is a charge made by the feminist organ, *La Francaise*. In confirmation it quotes descriptions of political contests in Pompeii brought to light by Mme. Scalera, who has conducted much recent exploration of the ruins. Mme. Scalera showed how active electioneering by women was prized by candidates. A campaign was in progress in Pompeii at the time of its destruction. In a tavern lately unearthed was found an inscription, saying "Zmyrina urges voters to support Julious Polibius." The name Zmyrina was scratched over with chalk in an effort to erase it. This may have been, Mme. Scalera explains, because candidate Polibius did not consider Miss Zmyrina the kind of supporter of whom to be proud, since her name indicated Asiatic origin and a menial occupation. Either he or some zealous friend may have considered the erasure of the name good policy while allowing the words to remain that boomed his candidacy. Another inscription signed by a 100 per cent. Roman woman of probably better social standing was left as written. Other candidates were less fastidious. There is evidence of many of them appealing to women for support, thus adding testimony to a statement by Tacitus concerning a consul who, he said, owed his election to his tactful manner toward women. All of which goes to show how backward those modern states are which hesitate to confer equality on women.

Women Display Accomplishments

THE Geneva Exposition which opened on April 24 contains a large number of exhibits designed to show woman's accomplishments in the social, economic, industrial, intellectual and artistic fields. A somewhat incongruous feature is that the laying out of the exposition is the work of a man, but this was unavoidable owing to the fact that no woman resident of Geneva has so far selected architecture as her vocation, and non-residents are barred from displaying exhibits.

International Feminism

AN unusually large number of prominent foreign women are looked for as delegates to the convention of the International Council of Women at Washington in May. Among those expected are Senator Josephine Szebeko of Poland, Lady Ishbel Aberdeen of Great Britain, Mme. Clara d'Arcis of Switzerland, Mme. Avril de St. Croix of France, Senora Pilar Morlonde Menedez of Cuba, Gräfin Margaret Keyserling of Germany and others. It is the first time that a convention of the council will be held in this country.

Brutality Upheld by Georgia Judge

ONE Ogden Persons, who holds the position of Judge of the Superior Court at Moultrie, Ga., has ruled wife-beating to be a justifiable practice under certain circumstances. A man had been indicted for indulging in this form of amusement, but the judge directed a verdict of acquittal on the grounds mentioned. Contempt of court is not possible in some cases as, for instance, when the judge's actions are beneath contempt.

A Possible Woman Diplomat

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE will be asked to appoint a woman United States Minister to Siam. The candidate for this position is Mrs. Lucy Lindsay Patterson of Winston-Salem, N. C. Mrs. Patterson is Republican national committeeman of that State and was a candidate for Congress in 1922. Her present candidacy has the endorsement of the two Senators from Pennsylvania, of which State she is a native.

Old Habits Prevail

AFTER weeks of deliberation over the possible appointment of Mrs. Mary Walker Willebrandt as district judge of California, President Coolidge finally decided to adhere to old customs and appoint a man, one with political connections. His choice is a Mr. George Henning, who held office in the Department of Labor under Secretary Davis.

Sargent Lectures the D. A. R.

IN addressing the assembly of the D. A. R. at Washington on April 24, Attorney-General Sargent expressed it as his conviction that the participation of women in politics will have a tendency to purify and ennoble. At the same time he warned his audience against resting contentedly with the knowledge that their ancestors had done great things and urged that they should do something equally worthy themselves.

A Woman Federal Judge

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE has appointed a woman to a judicial position, and in doing so has merely followed a precedent established as far back as 1918. He has taken this step in his reappointment of Kathryn Sellers as judge of the Juvenile Court at Washington. The reappointment necessarily implies approval of the manner in which she has for six years performed the duties of her office. It should not be hard for the President to realize now that he can appoint women to other judicial positions without violating precedent and without interfering with the efficiency of the courts.

An American Woman Honored

DR. ALICE HAMILTON of the staff of the *Medical Woman's Journal* and of the Harvard Medical School has returned to the United States after fulfillment of a mission as a member of the Health Section of the League of Nations in studying health conditions in Poland and Russia. She is the only woman and the only American holding an official place on the section.

Japan Lags Behind

MRS. HARRIETTE HIFTON KING, whose "Feminism in Japan" appeared in a recent number of EQUAL RIGHTS, sends us the following brief paragraphs culled from *The Manchester Guardian:*

Mr. Toyohiko Takagawa, the noted Japanese labor leader, who is making a world tour, says that something like 80 per cent. of the textile workers in Japan are women, of whom a large proportion are between the ages of 17 and 25 years. In some of the big mills at Osaka—the Manchester of Japan—the workers live in "dormitories" attached to the factories. These lodgings are often well equipped and provided, there being separate "dormitories" for men and women workers. The board and lodging provided by the factories are computed as part of the wages.

"When there is a strike," he says, "the doors are shut and the workers are forced to stay in."

In reply to a question he said there are still about 70,000 women who work in the mines, of whom about 40,000 work underground.

All shades of political opinion are represented in party organizations in Japan and the new manhood suffrage measure will enfranchise 7,000,000 new voters. Mr. Takagawa thinks it will be at least a decade before women's suffrage will become a serious proposition.

"During Dinner"

ENGLISH, German, and American aspects of feminism were well represented at a National Woman's Party dinner at the Women's University Club, in Washington, D. C., April 17.

Isabelle Kendig, who represents the American feminists who not only demand equal rights in law and in politics, but also demand full opportunity to have both their professions and their families, was toastmistress. She introduced Dr. Helene Stoecker, as a representative of the German-Scandinavian feminist movement, which, Miss Kendig said, is mainly interested in social and economic emancipation.

Dr. Stoecker read the Equal Rights provisions of the new German Constitution and said: "Women were the only war winners in Germany. Our movement began more than sixty years ago, and complete political and legal equality was gained with the adoption of the new constitution.

"We have to be very attentive, however, to keep the rights we have gained. The new woman's movement began about 20 years ago when woman began to demand full equality, not only in politics but in every aspect of human activity. We do not want to have to chose between professional life and motherhood. We want to live full human lives—to have love and children and economic independence, just as men have.

"In addition to winning political and legal equality for women with our new constitution we also won equality for children born out of wedlock. All children have the same rights under the new constitution."

Dr. Stoecker organized the union for the Protection of Motherhood twenty years ago, and this society has always stood for the rights of children, the conservation of life, and peace. It always advocated equal protection for the legitimate and illegitimate children. It also has worked for better sex education, and more natural and free companionship between boys and girls.

Speaking of the question of names and titles, Dr. Stoecker pointed out that all adult women in Germany, whether married or single, are known as *"Frau."*

"Women should come out of our 'women's Ghetto', and take part in all human activity," she said. "In Germany, because we already have equal rights under the law, men and women work together for greater freedom. We do not wish to commit the same fault as men have committed. We want, not superiority, not the domination of women, but equality of men and women."

Mrs. Helena Normanton, distinguished English barrister, the first English woman to obtain a passport in her own name, then told the story of her presentation of her case to the British Foreign Office, "which," she said "is not exactly liberal." Much to her surprise, the Foreign Office immediately granted her request, saying that they saw no reason why she could not have the passport in her own name, but adding that her husband's name should appear somewhere on the passport for purposes of proving her nationality.

"An old proverb in England says, 'There are milestones on the Dover road.' That is the way it is in the woman's movement. We think we are going on endlessly without getting anywhere when suddenly we gain another point—pass another milestone." Mrs. Normanton said that because of the bitter economic struggle in England, men resent women's taking part in business, the industries and the professions. Women seeking to earn their own living meet violent opposition, and are treated very unfairly, she said. She advocated the use of "Mrs." rather than "Miss" for mature women.

Mrs. Matthews told the guests at the dinner the arguments she presented to the State Department, substantiatnig the Woman's Party's claim that the present regulation of the Passport Control Division deprived a woman of a legal right—her name—without due process of law, and should therefore be changed. She also described the State Department's reactions to her statement and to the brief presented by Mrs. Normanton. She added that the Woman's Party will continue its efforts until women have full equality with men in the matter of passports.

Ruby A. Black, who was granted the right to a passport in her own name, providing the phrase, "wife of Herbert B. Little" followed her name, expressed her thanks to the Woman's Party for the support given her in claiming this right.

Anita Pollitzer, national secretary of the Woman's Party, spoke on the Equal Rights program, saying that those who cared must want their rights so intensely that defeat is impossible. She told of the Equal Rights legislation before state legislatures and of the need for an amendment to the Federal Constitution, guaranteeing permanent equal rights.

Equal Rights in the Air—Applause by Mail

THUS Nina E. Allender begins a note to Burnita Shelton Matthews: "I heard your radio talk last night—beautifully clear and unhurried. The subject matter, of course, I take for granted. I had been out all evening. When I came in I took up the receiver, just as you were announced. I hope you and others are to talk often."

Nor was Mrs. Allender's note by any means the only applause Mrs. Matthews received from her talk on Equal Rights from the Washington *Post's* station. Before Mrs. Matthews had left the building, according to the announcer, some one telephoned to ask the name and address of the speaker on Equal Rights so that he might learn more of the subject.

On the same week that the International Parliament of Women, to meet under the auspices of the National Woman's Party in Washington, D. C., in December, 1925, was announced, music broadcasted in London was heard by many American radio enthusiasts. This suggests that the radio may not only bring nations into better understanding, but may hasten the universal freedom of women by bringing women of all the world closer together. With Java asking the United States Department of Commerce where it can buy radio sets and parts, and listening to the work of women all over the world, the subjection of women should soon end.

The New York City Branch of the National Woman's Party talks from the Gimbel station every week on Equal Rights. Besides Washington and New York, other cities in which women have recently filled the air with agitation for Equal Rights are Philadelphia, Pa.; Kansas City, Mo.; Chicago, Milwaukee, Providence, R. I.; Detroit, Mich., and San Francisco, Cal.

Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer recently talked from a station in Providence. Mabel Vernon, Anita Pollitzer, Margaret Whittemore and others have helped fill the air with news of Equal Rights.

Mrs. Allender, who is a radio enthusiast, says that people instinctively believe what they hear over the radio. She thinks that no greater opportunity than the radio exists for the education of the men and women of the United States—and the world—on Equal Rights.

EQUAL RIGHTS would be glad to have letters from readers who have heard Equal Rights on the air.

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Annual Dues	$10.00
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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.
House Joint Resolution Number 75.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923, by Senator Charles E. Curtis.
Introduced in the House of Representatives, December 13, 1923, by Representative D. R. Anthony.

An Enviable Record

THAT the women of Russia are making rapid progress in equal rights is indicated by a bulletin recently received from Moscow by the Russian Information Bureau in Washington, D. C. Nearly 50,000 women hold public office in elective bodies in Russia this year. Forty thousand women are members of the rural Soviets, 200 of them being presidents of these bodies. In the city Soviets there are 6000 women. One thousand women are members of District ("Volost") Executive Committees, including twenty district presidents, and there are 100 women in County ("Uyezd") Executive Committees, and 75 in Provincial Executive Committees.

This does not include the many women who hold administrative posts in the Government, among them an ambassador and a woman occupying a high post in the army. Of these some of the more important are as follows: Krupskaya (Mme. Lenin), chairman of the Department of Political Education; Mme. Trotzky, chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of Art Museums; Mme. Kollontai, Ambassador to Norway; Mme. Kameneva, chairman of the Federal Bureau for Cultural Relations; Mme. Bitzenko, chairman of the Co-operative Institute; Mme. Lilina, director of Welfare Activities in Leningrad Province.

The percentage of women members in Soviet bodies has increased markedly, as is shown by the following table:

Soviet Body.	Percentage of Women Members. In 1921.	In 1924.
Rural Soviets	0.0	7.9
District ("Volost") Executive Committees	0.0	6.0
City Soviets in County ("Uyezd") Towns	7.8	17.9
City Soviets in Provincial Centers	3.5	19.9

Vologda leads the provinces with 36 per cent. of its elected bodies composed of women this year. The Votek Autonomous Region is second with 32.4 per cent. and Novgorod third with 26.7 per cent.

Whatever one may think of Russia's economic policy it must be confessed that her feminist record is enviable.

The Psychological Moment

TO whatever corner of the world one turns nowadays some evidence of the trend toward feminism is visible. A thousand different symptoms indicate the change that is taking place in the social order, their variety perhaps being the surest token of their validity. Thus from Constantinople comes the word that bobbed hair and short skirts are taking the place of concealing robes and veiled faces among the Moslem women. From Norway we hear that Harriet Backer, the foremost woman painter of that country, has been knighted by King Haakon. And America furnishes the news that at least one ocean steamship with a woman as its captain will soon offer a picturesque example of feminist innovation. Acts of heroism also are not lacking. Only recently the Red Cross awarded a life-saving prize to Miss Dorothy Henderson of Ohio for her courageous action in rescuing a youth from drowning. Little by little the evidence accumulates; every daily paper contributing something to show that the hoary theory of the "sphere of woman" is destined presently to go into the discard.

The vitality of the feminist movement is so tremendous, and in a sense is so removed from verbal theory, that it seems vain at times to attempt to hasten the victory by organization or argument. Whether one works directly for equal rights or not, it is clear that the movement will progress toward its goal with the inevitableness of evolution. This fact, however, should act as a spur to our efforts, rather than as a salve to our consciences. Every work spoken for equal rights, every act designed to eradicate discriminations against women, count in this epoch to the uttermost.

Though the dawn is in the sky the day of justice is still far distant. A generation ago it would perhaps have been idle to work for a Federal equal rights amendment. Suffrage had to be won before the complete equal rights program could become a practical possibility. Now, however, there is no longer reason for delay . Women hold the key to emancipation in their own hands. Surely it is not wasted effort to urge them to use it.

A Pertinent Question

By Sue S. White

WHENEVER it is charged that the Civil Service Commission discriminates against women, that worthy body enters a denial and quotes the regulation that accompanies all of its announcements, to the effect that both men and women may enter any examination. Along with this very impartial-sounding regulation, however, there goes always the further provision that "appointing officers have the legal right to specify the sex desired in requesting certification of eligibles." We have grown used to this suave method of disposing of the whole question of discrimination against women in the civil service, although we have seen through it.

Recently, however, there came to my attention three announcements of examinations, which are so bold in their discrimination against women that I am passing the information on to EQUAL RIGHTS and asking the question, "When is a discrimination not a discrimination in the minds of the Civil Service Commission and our Federal officials?"

It seems that there are some vacancies for attorneys and examiners in the Interstate Commerce Commission, paying salaries ranging fom assistant examiner at $2400 to senior attorney at $5200 and upward. The announcement of the Civil Service Commission as to these examinations say: "For these positions in the Interstate Commerce Commission *men are desired.*" In other words, women need not apply.

And why may not women apply? What reason can there be why women could not be examiners or attorneys in the Interstate Commerce Commission if they can pass the examination and qualify? Why should they be barred from the examination and not permitted even to make the attempt to qualify? There is no logical reason resting in the character of the work to be done. There must be some reason, however, for the departure from the regulation that both men and women may enter any examination. Does it not rest in the fact that these positions carry unusually high entrance salaries? Women may enter the examinations for card-punching, filing, tabulating and such humble jobs—oh, yes—on an equal footing with men. But when it comes to a $6000 job as an attorney in the Interstate Commerce Commission, *"men are desired."* No woman need apply.

The Joiner Bill Fails

GOVERNOR AL SMITH has vetoed the Joiner Bill which would permit the New York State Industrial Commission to establish a forty-eight-hour-week for women and children in any industry where the existing hours of labor are found after an investigation to be detrimental to health. This bill was offered by the advocates of restrictive legislation after the forty-eight-hour-week bill was defeated. The National Woman's Party appeared before the New York legislature in opposition to all measures which would restrict woman's opportunity in industry, and advocated that all legislation affecting conditions in industry be made applicable to all persons in the industry.

A hearing on the Joiner forty-eight-hour week bill for women only was held before Governor Smith in the Executive Chamber of the Capitol on Thursday, April 16th.

According to a statement made by the Governor at the hearing, a plank was included in the platforms of the Democratic and Republican parties in New York in 1924, at the demand of "Labor Committees", pledging the passage of a forty-eight hour week bill for women. The Mastick-Shonk Forty-eight Hour Week Bill, which was satisfactory to the American Federation of Labor and the women's organizations advocating special restrictive legislation for women, passed the Senate but was defeated in the Assembly, both Republican Houses. In its place the Republicans introduced the Joiner Bill, which gave to the State Industrial Board the power to investigate the conditions under which women in industry work and to regulate the hours of women workers, reducing the hours of work, if necessary, to eight hours a day or forty-eight hours a week.

Representatives of the League of Women Voters, the Consumers' League, the Women's Trade Union League, the Women's City Club of New York City, and Mr. O'Hanlon, of the American Federation of Labor, and Miss Frances Perkins of the State Industrial Board appeared in opposition to the bill and asked the Governor to veto it, on the ground that it would prove an unworkable law, and that as a substitute bill it was an evasion of the Republican Party Platform, as it was not a genuine forty-eight hour bill.

The Woman's Party appeared in opposition to the bill, the speakers being Mrs. Clarence M. Smith, New York Chairman, and Mrs. Mary Murray of the New York Industrial Council. Mrs. Smith said:

"Your Excellency: The Woman's Party appears with the opposition to-day but not for the same reasons advanced by the other women's organizations appearing here.

"We were not in favor of the Mastick-Shonk Bill for women only and appeared at the hearing before the Committee on Labor and Industries to ask that the bill be amended to apply to all workers instead of to women alone. Any one who was present at that hearing must have been convinced that there is a great difference of opinion among the women of this state regarding special restrictive legislation for women. We are not in favor of the Joiner Bill, which gives to the Industrial Board the power to investigate and regulate the hours of women and not the hours of men."

"Previous speakers have laid great emphasis on the fact that the New York state platforms of the political parties contained a plank in favor of a forty-eight hour week for women. It seems amazing to us, in this age, when the whole tendency of modern labor legislation throughout the world is toward an eight-hour day for all workers that the Democratic and Republican parties in this State should be so backward as to include in their platforms a plank for a forty-eight-hour-week for women instead of for all workers."

"The Woman's Party does not want to see any human being, either man or woman, exploited by industry. We believe, however, that we speak in the best interests of women when we protest against special protective legislation for women, whether it is in the form of a definite restriction of hours of labor or an investigation and regulation of the hours of labor. There are women workers who are weak and men workers who are weak, and we believe that mature women are in no greater need of protection than the masses of men who are overworked, underpaid and unorganized. These men need protection quite as much as the masses of women, and that protection could be gained for them and upheld by the courts, if there were as much effort made in that direction as for laws for women. It is reasonable to maintain that

the health and vitality of the potential fathers of the oncoming generation is as essential to the welfare of the state as the health and vitality of potential mothers."

"One of the speakers here to-day has just said that for thirty-five years women have been working for special protective legislation for women. I want to point out to you that now, at the end of the thirty-five years, women are still the lowest paid workers in industry and at the very bottom rung of the industrial ladder, and that the only remedy suggested by the protectionists is more protection."

"We oppose this bill on the ground that it is discriminatory against women and would make it more difficult for women to compete with men in earning a livelihood."

Mrs. Mary Murray, an industrial worker, then made a most moving appeal for equal rights for women in industry.

"Your Excellency," she said: "I appear before you to-day at the request of working women, women in industry; not only potential and actual mothers, but at the request of grandmothers, to register their disapproval of the Joiner Bill. Not that they think it a bad bill or a menace to working women; on the contrary, they think it a step in the right direction. Women in industry, who are opposed to the so-called 'protective' legislation for women, have for years past been asking that industry be investigated, and wherever the awful conditions that we are told about exist, we ask that this industry or trade be improved and made safe for all workers, men and women, and should medical authority decide a certain number of hours is all that is healthful to work at some given trade or industry, make that the rule of that trade or industry for all workers, and not force women out of industry by saying that because they are women they can work only so many hours. Regulate the trade or industry and not the women. It is for this reason we oppose the Joiner Bill, because it asks for an investigation and regulation of women in industry, whereas we say it should ask for an investigation of conditions for all workers, men and women.

"Women are not in industry from choice. They are there for precisely the same reason as men, to earn for themselves and their dependents clothing, food and lodging. If they do not work, they must starve, accept charity or live in prostitution. A working woman's expenses are just the same as a man's, her responsibilities just as great. During the hearing on the Mastick-Shonk forty-eight-hour-week bill for women, a woman who spoke in favor of this bill said: we must always remember 'a woman is always a woman and needs protection.' But Governor, the fact that a woman is only a woman doesn't make the slightest impression upon the landlord, butcher, baker or undertaker when we come to pay our bills; they charge us the same as they charge the men.'

"And, Governor, even if we women in industry are only women, we are also human beings, with a human heart and human desires. We do like the nice things in life; we like to live decently, dress respectably, and give to our children the pretty things to make their hearts glad, and make them feel just as good as the children whose father has every opportunity to earn a good wage. We like to give them a higher education, and sometimes a mother wants to send her boy or girl to college. This cannot be done, Governor, if you reduce a woman's earning power by restricting her earnings to those of growing boys and girls.

"At the hearing on the Mastick-Shonk bill factory women employees testified that under the existing fifty-four hour week their average weekly wage was just half that of men's, and said they could not afford a further reduction in wages through limitation of hours. They know, as all we working women know, that well-paid work or even hard work never injured any one; it is the worry over lack of employment and how to make both ends meet that kills.

"Governor, working women must be free to have the same chance as a man to earn a good wage, to give to their children good food, a good education and good environment. Nature intended that we do this, and has given to us strength and endurance not possessed by men, to bring to maturity our children without the aid of a father or a husband; not only our widows, but women who have invalid husbands or those who acquired good-for-nothing husbands and are forced to be the bread winners of the family. Surely, Governor, you know some woman among your acquaintance who has done this job and done it well, but the proponents of protective legislation are striving hard to make it impossible by law to do so in the future.

"There are men and women who are sincere in thinking protective legislation is a benefit to working women, but they do not understand that an eight hour law is *not* an eight hour day. The working women who spoke in favor of the Mastick-Shonk bill at the hearing are organized and protected by the unions. They are not affected by special legislation for women. I trust, Governor, that you will think of the unorganized women in industry."

When Mrs. Murray had finished, Governor Smith who claims to be a firm beliver in special restrictive legislation for women, replied: "I have the greatest respect for the man or woman who has an honest difference of opinion regarding the forty-eight hour week bill for women. *I admit it is open to debate.*" He then said that he intended to veto the bill on the ground that it was impractical and "was put in to conciliate some strong-minded members of the Republican majority and provide an excuse for sidestepping a genuine forty-eight-hour week bill."

Mr. Mark A. Daly, legislative representative of the Associated Industries of New York, appeared in favor of the bill. He stated that the Industrial Board had a majority friendly to labor. "We oppose the straight forty-eight-hour-week proposal because it would ruin some industries, but we would accept the Joiner bill. It may not go as far as the Governor would like to see it go, but it goes as far as the State of New York should be permitted to go in interfering further in what is purely an economic problem, a question between employer and employe, and not a political issue. It should be handled by people who know something about it and be taken out of politics."

The Woman's Party, by appearing before the Governor in opposition to the Joiner bill, which is discriminatory toward women, has again demonstrated that in its campaign to reach the goal of equal rights for men and women in industry it is subservient neither to organized labor nor to the manufacturers, nor to any political party.

Mrs. Normanton to Sail

HELENA NORMANTON, after being a guest at the National Woman's Party Headquarters for a week, has gone to Quebec, whence she will sail for England in May. Mrs. Normanton assisted the Woman's Party in preparing the evidence, showing a woman's right to the use of her own name after marriage.

She gave a radio talk on "Surnames" on April 20. The Washington *Post,* which broadcasted her speech, installed a receiving set in the drawing room at the Woman's Party Headquarters for the occasion, and a "radio party" was held. Many men and women visited headquarters to listen in on Mrs. Normanton's speech.

Mrs. Normanton also spoke at the Women's National Press Club on "Surnames" at noon April 20. Winifred Mallon of the Chicago *Tribune,* formerly of the staff of *The Suffragist,* presided, and Margaret Whittemore spoke briefly on the Woman's Party deputation to Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg, requesting a change in the passport regulations, to permit a married woman who uses her own surname to travel without assuming her husband's name for the purpose of the journey.

Do Wage-Earners Need Legal Protection?

DR. ELIZABETH F. BAKER of the Department of Economics of Barnard College spoke on, "Do Wage-Earners Need Legal Protection?" at a meeting of the National Woman's Party in the Sun Room of the Allerton House, 57th street and Lexington avenue, Wednesday evening, April 15.

Dr. Baker, who has just published an extensive study on protective labor legislation, with particular application to the women of New York, under the direction of the Faculty of Political Science at Columbia University, is regarded as an authority on the much debated question of whether legislation for women workers is an advantage or a handicap to women in industry.

Dr. Baker held that there can be little question in the minds of the informed today that wage-earners are in need of protection by the State, but declared that it should no longer be based upon sex.

She said in part: "When we consider that there are something like thirty-five thousand fatal injuries annually in industry today—that is, one in about every twelve minutes—there is little question that better machine guards and other ways of making industry safe must be devised.

"Wage-earners average about nine days of the year of being away from work on account of sickness. This is largely preventable.

"About one million wage-earners, which means about one worker in every nine, work sixty or more hours a week in factories alone. Production engineers and industrial physicians declare that this is far too large a number for industrial efficiency—or citizenship efficiency.

"When it took $1760 to provide a minimum comfort standard of living for a family of five, over 50 per cent. of the wage-earners of the country received below this amount.

"These facts and many more show that the great masses of workers are unable to depend upon themselves to maintain efficiency for life or efficiency in industry.

"In regard to special laws for women there is much confusion of thinking. The traditional desire to be 'chivalrous' has tended to offer special protection to women, whether they have needed it or not and whether or not the aid was really protective.

"It is now granted that tired workers, whether they are men or women, are expensive to their employers and to society. It is clear that action must be taken for the protection of the weakest workers in industry, irrespective of sex, in order to make them stronger for the benefit of themselves and of society in general. It is no longer possible to be governed by the sex distinction.

"In regard to the fear that legislation for men workers may be held unconstitutional, past experience shows that court decisions depend upon the social attitude of the judges, and this attitude depends upon the attitude of society. The constitution which they are asked to interpret might be likened to steel rails. It may expand in a warm environment and contract in a cold. If the need is for expansion beyond its possibility, we have precedent in the way of constitutional amendments. Within the last twenty years two such amendments have been added to the New York constitution for the greater protection of workers. There is little question in the minds of the informed today that wage-earners, regardless of sex, are in need of protection by the State."

News From The Field

FEMINISTS from Australia, Germany and New Zealand were entertained at a tea at the National Woman's Party Headquarters on April 15. Lyra Taylor, lawyer from New Zealand; Dr. Helene Stoecker, leader of the feminist movement and the peace movement in Germany, and Miss Holder of Australia were guests of honor.

Miss Taylor and Miss Holder are delegates from their countries to the International Council of Women, meeting here May 4 to 14.

GENEVIEVE MELODY, chairman of the National Teachers' Council of the National Woman's Party, is the first woman principal of a high school in Chicago attended by both sexes. Miss Melody has been in the public school system of Chicago for 30 years. She was nominated to the principalship of Calumet High School April 1 by Superintendent William McAndrew. She was educated in the Chicago public schools and the University of Chicago. She holds the degrees of bachelor of philosophy and master of philosophy, and is a graduate of the Kent College of Law.

MISS ELLA RIEGEL, State legislative chairman of Pennsylvania, reports that three of the bills urged by the Pennsylvania Branch of the National Woman's Party have passed both houses of the legislature and now await the Governor's signature. They are a bill granting the mother the same right to the custody, earnings and services of children as the father has; a bill giving the surviving parent the right to name a guardian for the children; and a bill removing the requirement that males shall be preferred in the appointment of administrators to assist the widow in settling her husband's estate.

Miss Riegel has worked indefatigably during the whole legislative session and the Pennsylvania Branch has reason to be proud of the results secured by her and other members of the branch who have helped in the legislative work.

MRS. H. INOUYE of 3553 Motosu Gamo, Takada-Machi, Tokio, Japan, is one of the most recent subscribers to EQUAL RIGHTS. At her request her husband visited National Woman's Party Headquarters recently, obtained for her all Equal Rights literature, and stated that Mrs. Inouye wanted to receive every issue of EQUAL RIGHTS.

Mrs. Inouye is the dean of a college for women in Tokio, and is a leader in the peace and feminist movements in Japan. She recently entertained 600 Americans at a luncheon in Tokio, and she invites American feminists visiting Japan to call upon her.

Mr. Inouye was one of the leaders in the fight for woman's suffrage in the Japanese Diet, and was one of the twenty-five members who voted to give Japanese women the suffrage.

AN unsolicited check came to headquarters recently with the following note:

"For use in your general fund."

(Signed) WILL IRWIN.

Mr. Irwin's wife, Inez Haynes Irwin, is the author of "The Story of the Woman's Party," the complete history of the fight for the suffrage amendment. Mrs. Irwin is also a member of the National Council, the New York City Committee and the Writers' Council of the National Woman's Party. Mr. Irwin is one of the most eminent journalists and fiction writers in America.

MRS. JOHN W. BRANNAN of the New York City Executive Committee of the National Woman's Party was a recent guest at headquarters. Mrs. Brannan, who is a member of the House Furnishing Committee, inspected headquarters and expressed deep gratification at the completion of the Virginia and Michigan rooms. The main drawing-room, to be known as the Founders' Room, has been redecorated and financed by the founders, the work having been completed last week.

DR. STOECKER, after being a guest at headquarters for a week, has gone to Chicago to attend the annual conference of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She has been for twenty years a feminist and pacifist leader in Germany.

MARGARET WHITTEMORE, vice-president of the Woman's Party, informally discussed the Equal Rights Amendment and Equal Rights legislation in various States at an Headquarters tea on April 15.

AT a meeting of the New York Branch on April 15 Miss Emma Wold, secretary of the Legal Research Department of the National Woman's Party, gave a most interesting and helpful talk on the equal rights legislation which has been secured in State legislatures this year. Miss Wold declared that the experience of the past winter in State legislatures should convince women of the necessity of national action to remove from the laws all discriminations against women.

Mrs. Clarence M. Smith, New York State chairman, presided.

From The Press

Women Are No Mystery
By Rupert Hughes
Washington Times.

IT has been the custom of male writers since the world began to treat women as if they were strange, mysterious beings that nobody could understand or foretell; curious pretty foreigners who had amazing ways of thinking and acting, utterly unlike the male ways.

And all the while women have been traveling the world right alongside the men and going about their business just as men would under the same circumstances.

If I know anything about women it is this, that they are simply men of a different build. That difference has some effect on their functions in life, their duties and their opportunities. But since most men and women ignore their best functions, neglect their duties and fall short on their opportunities, the men and women of any given region or period are more alike than they are unlike.

It seems to me that all this should be as clear as day to everybody.

Women have been slaves for ages, but men forget that men also have been slaves for ages. Women still are slaves to customs, cowards before gossip and criticism, and they still kowtow to fashions in clothes, opinions and morals.

But so are men slaves, cowards and sheep.

It has taken women thousands of years to throw off what shackles they have thrown off. But men got rid of theirs only a few years before.

Women owe much of their present freedom to men, and countless good women fought against women's rights as bitterly as the conservative men did. But then men themselves owe what freedom they have less to themselves than to a few leaders, and most of the men always fight and still fight the very leaders who are trying to see them free from old and new subjections, superstitions and indignities.

Perhaps men are not much to blame for treating women as mysteries because the women found it wise to play on the legend and assume the roles men wrote for them. Men and women were all slaves together up to a short time ago.

I don't know how many women were ever fooled by this outrageous flattery, but they all went on for thousands of years pretending to believe it. It is only in our time that they have gotten together and demanded of the men:

"Cut out the compliments and give us our rights."

It was always a sneaking insult to call women the superiors of men and then cheat them out of their equality, their liberty and their property.

But those good old days are gone, and we fathers, husbands, brothers and sons have got to adjust ourselves to the new mothers, new wives, new sisters and new daughters that we have got to get along with somehow.

My advice to men is to treat women honestly first, and gracefully afterwards. The footpad who lifts my watch and lifts his hat at the same time is more irritating than an honest thug.

Personality Lost the Penalty
New York Times,

AS a result of an investigation covering the whole country which has been made for the Russell Sage Foundation, it is revealed that child marriages in this city, instead of being more frequent than elsewhere, are considerably less numerous than they are in other large centres of population, and that the evil exists to the greatest extent, not in such centres, but in the rural districts, and especially among the isolated mountain dwellers. It also seems that the native stocks are more given to marrying before 21 than the recent arrivals, the latter showing a marked tendency to advance the marriage age beyond what it was in their old homes.

This contradicts the impressions created by the rather terrible revelations made of late as to the conduct of our own marriage bureaus.

In telling the consequences of early marriages, the report emphasizes, not those which often have been discussed. but one that has received hitherto little or no attention. "In such a union," it is stated, "the husband is usually older and becomes the guardian and mentor of his wife. This inevitably cripples her personality and that of her mate as well. Neither may ever know the meaning of genuine comradeship in the marriage relation."

That is entirely and easily creditable, but how long is it since all marriages, or at any rate the great majority of them, always in theory and usually in practice, established the man in the position of guardian and mentor for the wife? And it did not depend on the ages of the two; the rule was general. If having the man in that position now causes both to lose personality, it must have done so in the past, but the old-time husbands vehemently would have denied it and not many of the old-time wives would have admitted it.

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